

April 2 2021

Noticias y Notas

News and notes from the Second Judicial District Court

SJDC bailiff enjoys exploring ancient cultures—in two separate galaxies

We all have hobbies or outside interests—things we do for fun, entertainment or personal fulfillment when we are not performing our duties at the Second Judicial District Court. It is doubtful, however, that many of us have as unique a combination of outside interests as Nadia Gilpin, Security Bailiff for Judge Britt Baca-Miller.



SJDC Security Bailiff Nadia Gilpin (in the red uniform) appears with fellow members of the 501st Legion at a charity event at the University of New Mexico Children's Hospital.

When she is not maintaining order in Judge Baca-Miller's courtroom, Nadia, as an archeology student at the University of New Mexico, studies the lifestyles and cultures of ancient people.

She also finds time to work with a security team that originated a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. Yes, that is a reference to

Star Wars, and the security unit Nadia works with is a group of Storm Troopers known as the 501st Legion.

In the Star Wars universe, the 501st is an elite unit of troopers commanded directly by Darth Vader. In this universe, the 501st is an international fan-based organization dedicated to making and wearing armor and other costumes worn by characters typically recognized as Star Wars villains.

Naturally, members of the 501st show up at events like Comic Con and Stars Wars conventions. However, they probably spend more time helping to draw crowds and drum up enthusiasm at charity events. Nadia, for instance, has appeared with the 501st at events for the UNM Children's hospital and Albuquerque's annual Twinkle Light Holiday Parade, among others.

The 501st is an all-volunteer force. They never take money for their appearances. They are only there to support worthy causes.

"Pre-Covid, we used to do 100 to 200 events a year," Nadia said, "including things like send offs for children going out of state for medical treatment. That slowed down considerably this past year, but we still have done a few. Some of them have been drive-byes, but that is somewhat difficult to do given the makeup of our costumes."

For the rest of the story, [click here](#).



Shout outs



This the space where we sound the horn for outstanding performances.

This week's shout out to goes **Argelia Barraza, administrative assistant for the Hearing Officer Division at Children's Court.** Known for her quiet but deliberate manner, Argelia has earned respect from both Hearing Officers and staff. She is a subject matter expert on all things related to Children's Court and often serves as the trainer for new staff joining the judiciary. Monica Rodriguez, Deputy CEO in charge of Children's Court said this about Argelia, "She is compassionate with a strong work ethic, and always willing to jump in where and when she is needed. At the end of the day, Argelia understands and works to preserve the judicial principles we all hold dear."

Bravo, Argelia!

Take both challenges

We now have two challenges in progress as the Second Judicial District Court, both of which will be beneficial to your health.

The virtual 5K challenge

As you may know, today is the official kickoff for the first SJDC Virtual 5K Challenge. That means it is time to complete your races and record your official time. Everyone who completes the race and enters their time — whether they run or walk — will be entered into the drawing for one of several prizes. Follow the link in the box below to find the website for entering your time. We also would like to see photos of you during your race. We will share any photos we get in a future newsletter.

Click [Here](#) to Find The SJDC
5K Challenge Website

The vaccine challenge



The other courts across the state have issued a vaccine challenge. Yes, they think they can get more of their employees vaccinated than we can. But, we know better, right?

The challenge started yesterday. We have from now until May 7 to get any of our employees who not have already been vaccinated to get their shots.

So, if you know of anyone in this court who has not been vaccinated encourage them to sign up. More doses are

available across state, so it should be easier to get one. The easiest way to get signed up is to register on the [New Mexico Department of Health's website](#).

If you're still reluctant to sign up, think about this. The court with most employees vaccinated by May 7 gets money to spend on its employees. Our Chief Judge Stan Whitaker recorded a video with the challenge details. If you have not seen it, [go to this page](#) and click on the vaccine video. A cash prize and protection from the virus. That combination should be enough to get you clicking right now.